



MEMO

TO: OATI webCARES Digital Certificate Security Officers

DATE: November 18, 2024

SUBJECT: Important - New 2025 OATI webCARES Client & Server Issuing Certificates

OATI is an “Authorized” Certification Authority (CA) providing digital certificate services to North American electric utilities pursuant to the NAESB WEQ-012 standard. The OATI webCARES Certificate Authority (CA) undergoes certain mandatory updates that include renewing the issuer certificate, which is used to sign the client (end user) and server certificates you issue to your users. This memo describes the changes, the timeline of the changes, and the potential impacts of these changes.

CHANGE DETAILS:

OATI is currently in the process of establishing two new issuer certificates - one for issuing client certificates, and one for issuing server certificates. The below table describes these changes.

CHANGE	DESCRIPTION
Issuer Change	<p>The CURRENT issuer is ‘webCARES Issuing CA 2021’; this issuer will be deprecated, and replaced by the following NEW issuers, one for server certificates and a separate one for client certificates -</p> <p>NEW Server Certificate Issuer: webCARES Server Issuing CA 2025</p> <p>NEW Client Certificate Issuer: webCARES Client Issuing CA 2025</p>
Certificate Serial Number Change	<p>The CURRENT serial number length of the certificates (server and client certificates) issued by the current 2021 issuer is 32 characters.</p> <p>The NEW serial number length of the certificates (server and client certificates) issued by the new 2025 issuers is 64 characters.</p>
Server Certificate Subject Change	<p>Server certificates issued by the CURRENT 2021 issuer have the attribute ‘emailAddress’ in the SUBJECT field.</p> <p>Server certificates issued by the NEW 2025 issuers will NO LONGER have this attribute i.e., the attribute ‘emailAddress’ will no longer be present in the SUBJECT field of Server certificates.</p>

CHANGE	DESCRIPTION
	There is <u>no change</u> in the SUBJECT field of the Client certificates.

CHANGE TIMELINE:

On March 04, 2025, OATI webCARES will cut over to the new 2025 Client and Server Issuers.

After the cutover, all certificates will be issued from the new 2025 Client and Server Issuers (new client certificates will be issued from the new client issuer and new server certificates will be issued from the new server issuer).

The current 2021 issuer will no longer be used for issuing certificates after the cutover. However, existing digital certificates issued under the 2021 issuer will continue to work and do not need to be re-issued.

CHANGE IMPACTS:

No additional action is necessary if you and your users perform browser-based access to OATI applications (most customers). Additionally, when issuing or renewing certificates, webCARES will automatically select the correct new 2025 issuing certificate; Security Officers will not have to take manual actions to switch to the new 2025 issuers or select the correct issuer.

IMPORTANT: Customers using programmatic access to any OATI application, or programmatic access to third-party applications that accept OATI webCARES certificates, must install the new 2025 Client and Server Issuing certificates. Customer systems that accept OATI certificates may also need to install the new 2025 Client and Server Issuing certificates, depending on the application that they are using to accept those certificates. Failure to correctly install and test the new 2025 Client and Server Issuing certificates will impact your ability to programmatically connect to OATI or third party applications.

SUPPORT:

OATI has provided a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on <https://www.oaticerts.com/repository/2025IssuersFAQ.pdf> that will assist you in testing and installing the new certificates, and will also answer questions related to browsers, APIs, and troubleshooting. Additionally, the new 2025 issuers are now available for testing.

Thank you in advance for your careful review of the details of this announcement. If you have any questions about this change, please contact the OATI Help Desk via chat through the OATI Hub, e-mail at support@oati.net, or phone at 763-201-2020.

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